

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 19, 2007. Claims 1, 2, 5 to 12, 15 to 20, 26, 27, 30 to 32, 35, 36, 43, 44, 53, 54, 57, 58 and 60 are pending in the application, with Claims 21, 22, 25, 39, 40, 55 and 59 having been cancelled herein. Claims 1, 11, 26, 31, 35 and 43 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 11, 21, 26, 31, 35, 39 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action alleged that the negative limitations contained in the claims is not included in the specification. The rejections are respectfully traversed. Specifically, as described with regard to Fig. 8, the user selects the display items to be displayed (e.g., selects from among “product name”, “network I/F board name”, “location”, “network address”, and “MAC address”). The item not designated as seen in Fig. 8 is “product name” and therefore, “product name” is not displayed on the display list. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5 to 7, 9 to 12, 15 to 17, 19 to 22, 25 to 27, 30 to 32, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43, 44 and 53 to 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,072,067 (Leiman), and Claims 8 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Leiman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,378 (Meyer). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention is characterized in that, in the case of displaying a device list of display-target items and sort items, which are the basis for rearrangement can be selected, and an item selected as the sort item is displayed even if it is not selected as the display-target item. More specifically, assuming that there is a device list on which items

such as a device name, an IP address and a MAC address can be displayed for each of devices 1, 2 and 3, if the device name and the IP address are designated as the display-target items, the device list including the device name and the IP address for each of the devices 1, 2 and 3 is displayed, but the MAC address is not displayed on this list. If the device name is selected as the sort item, the devices 1, 2 and 3 are displayed in numerical order on this list. If, however, the user then selects the MAC address as the sort item, the items (i.e., devices 1, 2 and 3) are arranged based on their respective MAC addresses on the device list, and the selected sort item, even though it was not initially selected as a display-target item, is set as a display-target item and thus displayed.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 1 is directed to a network managing method for providing a device list that includes a plurality of records, each record including a plurality of device information corresponding respectively to a plurality of items, said network managing method comprising a displaying step of displaying the device list, a first designating step of designating, from among the plurality of items, at least one item to be displayed on the device list, wherein, from among the plurality of device information included in each record of the device list, said displaying step displays the device information corresponding to the items designated in said first designating step and does not display the device information corresponding to the items not designated in said first designating step, a second designating step of designating any one of the plurality of items, wherein, in each record of the device list displayed in said displaying step, a display order is rearranged according to a content of the device information corresponding to the item designated in said second designating step, a setting step of setting the item designated in said second designating step as an item to be displayed even though the item

has not been designated in said first designating step, and a rearranging step of rearranging the records according to the content of the device information corresponding to the item designated in said second designating step.

Claims 11 and 26 are device and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1. Claim 31 is a method claim along the lines of Claim 1, but is more generic in that it is directed to displaying a data list that includes a plurality of data items rather than displaying a device list that includes a plurality of device information. Claims 35 and 43 are device and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 31.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 11, 26, 31, 35 and 43, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a second designating step of designating any one of a plurality of items, wherein, in each record of a device (data) list displayed in a displaying step, a display order is rearranged according to a content of the device information (data) corresponding to the item designated in said second designating step, setting the item designated in the second designating step as an item to be displayed even though the item has not been designated in a first designating step, and rearranging the records according to the content of the device information corresponding to the item designated in the second designating step.

Leiman is seen to disclose that a list including printers and clients is displayed on an open print server in a print system (Fig. 6). Further, Leiman discloses that printers and clients being display targets on the list can be designated from a dialog box (Figs. 7 and 8). Leiman further discloses that a job queue list (job queue status table) is

displayed on the open print server (Fig. 9), and that the job queue status table can be sorted according to job items (Fig. 10). More specifically, as shown in Fig. 13 of Leiman, if "source" is selected and then "CPU 1" is selected, only jobs that the source is the CPU 1 are listed and displayed on the job queue status table. From the foregoing, it seems that Leiman discloses the point similar to "first designating step (means)" of the present invention. Accordingly, Leiman will be able to select the display target when displaying the list. However, Leiman is quite silent about the claimed "second designating step (means)" in the present invention. Namely, Leiman does not disclose that the display order of respective records on a device list is changed (rearranged) according to the contents of device information corresponding to a designated item. Leiman (Fig. 13) merely discloses that, if "source" and "CPU 1" are selected from the job queue status table, only the jobs that the source is the CPU 1 are displayed. More specifically, in Leiman, there are six records of jobs that the source is the CPU 1, and the order thereof has not changed from order initially displayed in the list. For example, the job name "FNAD174" is the first and the job name "FNASD80C" is the second. However, the order is not changed.

In addition, Leiman is quite silent about the claimed "setting step (means)" of the present invention. Namely, Leiman does not disclose that an item designated in a second designating step (means) is set as a display target on a displayed device list even though this item was not designated in a first designating step (means). Leiman does not essentially disclose any step (means) corresponding to "second designating step (means)" of the present invention, because Leiman does not assume that the target not designated in the first designating step is then displayed. For example, in Leiman, the printer and the client not selected in Fig. 7 or 8 are never displayed in the list of Fig. 6. Further, if the

CPU 1 being the source is selected in Fig. 13, a job that the source is not the CPU 1 is never displayed.

Thus, Claims 1, 11, 26, 31, 35 and 43 are not believed to be anticipated by Leiman.

Meyer is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Leiman would have resulted in the above features of the invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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